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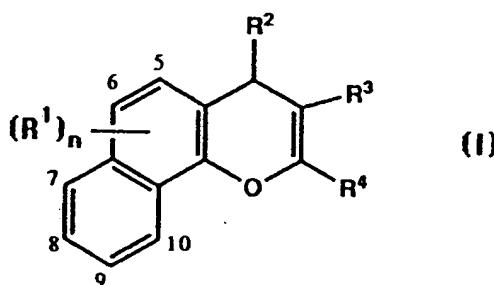
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(54) Antiproliferative derivatives of 4H-naphtho 1,2-b pyran.

(57) A pharmaceutical compound of the formula

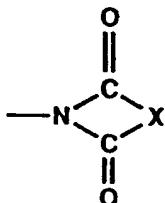


in which n is 0, 1 or 2 and R¹ is attached at any of the positions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, and each R¹ is halo, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, -COOR⁵ where R⁵ is an ester group, -CONR⁶R⁷ or -NR⁶R⁷ where R⁶ and R⁷ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R² is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl selected from thienyl, pyridyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, benzofuranyl or benzimidazolyl, said phenyl, naphthyl and heteroaryl groups being optionally substituted, or R² is furanyl optionally substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R³ is nitrile, carboxy, -COOR⁸ where R⁸ is an ester group, -CONR⁹R¹⁰ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, or R¹¹SO₂⁻ where R¹¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl; and

R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹², -N(COR¹²)₂ or -N=CHOCH₂R¹² where R¹² and R¹³ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted with carboxy,



where X is C₂₋₄ alkylene, or -NHSO₂R¹⁴ where R¹⁴ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl;

provided that when n is 0, R³ is nitrile and R⁴ is -NH₂, R² is not phenyl or phenyl substituted in the para-position with a single chloro, hydroxy or methoxy substituent;

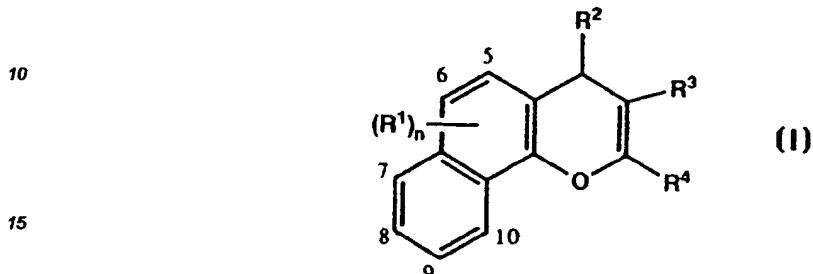
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and salts thereof.

This invention relates to pharmaceutical compounds, their preparation and use.

The synthesis of certain phenyl-substituted naphtho [1,2-b] pyrans is described by Elagamey A. et al in Indian Journal of Chemistry, 29B, 885-886, (1990), and Collection Czechoslovak Chem. Commun., 53(7), 1534-1538, (1988). No biological properties or activity are ascribed to the compounds disclosed.

5 The compounds of the invention have the formula:



in which n is 0, 1 or 2 and R¹ is attached at any of the positions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, and each R¹ is halo, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, -COOR⁵ where R⁵ is an ester group, -CONR⁶R⁷ or -NR⁶R⁷ where R⁶ and R⁷ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

20 R² is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl selected from thienyl, pyridyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, benzofuranyl or benzimidazolyl, said phenyl, naphthyl and heteroaryl groups being optionally substituted, or R² is furanyl optionally substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl;

25 R³ is nitrile, carboxy, -COOR⁸ where R⁸ is an ester group, -CONR⁹R¹⁰ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, or R¹¹SO₂- where R¹¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl; and

30 R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹², -N(COR¹²)₂ or -N=CHOCH₂R¹² where R¹² and R¹³ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted with carboxy,



40 where X is C₂₋₄ alkylene, or -NHSO₂R¹⁴ where R¹⁴ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl;

provided that when n is 0, R³ is nitrile and R⁴ is -NH₂, R² is not phenyl or phenyl substituted in the para-position with a single chloro, hydroxy or methoxy substituent;

and salts thereof.

45 The compounds of the invention have been found to be active in tests which show their potential for treatment of immune diseases and diseases in which excess cell proliferation or enzyme release play a significant role.

In the above formula (I), halo is, for example, fluoro, chloro or bromo and is especially chloro. A C₁₋₄ alkyl group includes, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl, and is preferably methyl or ethyl. A C₁₋₄ alkoxy group is one such alkyl group linked through oxygen to an aryl nucleus. A hydroxyalkyl group is one such alkyl group substituted with a hydroxyl, and preferably of the formula HO(CH₂)_x - where x is 1 to 4. A hydroxyalkoxy group is an alkoxy group substituted with a hydroxyl, and preferably of the formula HO(CH₂)_xO - where x is 1 to 4. C₁₋₄ alkylthio is C₁₋₄ alkyl linked via a sulphur atom.

A substituted phenyl group is substituted with one or more, preferably one or two substituents each selected from halo, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, -COOR¹⁵ where R¹⁵ is an ester group, -CONR¹⁶R¹⁷ or -NR¹⁶R¹⁷ where R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl. Substituted naphthyl and heteroaryl groups may be similarly substituted. In addition substituted phenyl includes a phenyl group in which neighbouring atoms are substituted

by $-O(CH_2)_mO-$, where m is 1,2 or 3.

When n is 1 or 2 and there are one or two substituents on the naphtho nucleus they can be at any of the positions 5 to 10. When there are two substituents they can be the same or different. It is preferred that the naphtho nucleus is unsubstituted or that it bears a single substituent at the 5, 6 or 9-positions.

5 When R² is heteroaryl it is preferably 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-benzothienyl, 3-benzothienyl, 2-quinolinyl, 3-quinolinyl, 2-benzofuranyl, 3-benzofuranyl or 2-benzimidazolyl, 2-furanyl or 3-furanyl. Anaphthyl group is attached at the 1- or 2- position. Such groups can be substituted at any of the available positions, but are preferably unsubstituted.

10 A preferred value of R² is optionally substituted phenyl, preferably phenyl with a single substituent, especially nitro or trifluoromethyl.

The group R³ is preferably nitrile. When R³ is -COOR⁸, R⁸ can be any ester group and is preferably C₁₋₄ alkyl, especially methyl or ethyl.

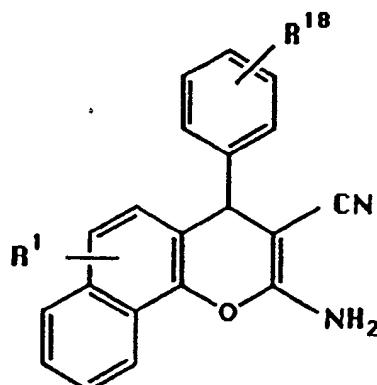
The group R⁴ is preferably -NR¹²R¹³, and especially -NH₂.

15 A particular group of compounds according to formula (I) are compounds to which n is 0, 1 or 2 and R¹ is attached at any of the positions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, and each R¹ is halo, trifluoromethyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy, R² is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or two substituents each selected from nitro, trifluoromethyl, halo, C₁₋₄ alkyl and C₁₋₄ alkoxy or R² is furanyl optionally substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl, R³ is nitro, carboxy, -COOR⁸ where R⁸ is an ester group, or -CONR⁹R¹⁰ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, and R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹² or -N(COR¹²)₂ where R¹² and R¹³ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, or -NSO₂R¹⁴ where R¹⁴ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three substituents each selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, nitro and halo; provided that when n is 0, R³ is nitrile and R⁴ is -NH₂, R² is not phenyl or phenyl substituted in the para-position with a single chloro, hydroxy or methoxy substituent.

An especially preferred group of compounds is of the formula

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where R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy or halo, and R¹⁸ is nitro or trifluoromethyl. The R¹ group is preferably attached at the 5, 6 or 9 positions.

45 It will be appreciated that when, for example, R¹ or R³ is -COOH, an opportunity exists for salts to be followed. They can be derived from any of the well known bases. Examples of base salts are those derived from ammonium hydroxide and alkali and alkaline earth metal hydroxides, carbonates and bicarbonates, as well as salts derived from aliphatic and aromatic amines, aliphatic diamines and hydroxy alkylamines. Bases especially useful in the preparation of such salts include ammonium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, lithium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, methylamine, diethylamine, ethylene diamine, cyclohexylamine and ethanolamine. The potassium, sodium and lithium salt forms are particularly preferred.

In addition to pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, other salts are included in the invention. They may serve as intermediates in the purification of compounds or in the preparation of other, for example pharmaceutically-acceptable, acid addition salts, or are useful for identification, characterisation or purification.

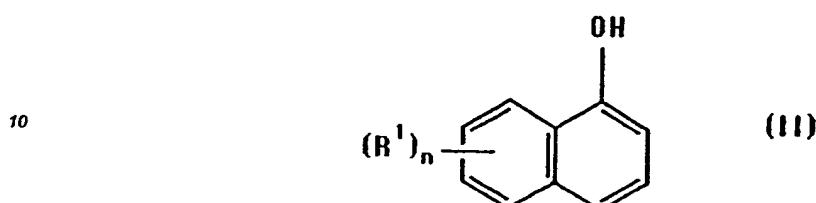
55 When R¹ and R³ are -COOR⁵ and -COOR⁸ respectively, the compounds are in ester form. The ester group can be any conventional group, for example, an ester derived from an alcohol, especially a C₁₋₄ alcohol. Preferred values of R⁵ and R⁸ are thus C₁₋₄ alkyl.

It will be appreciated that the compounds of the invention contain an asymmetric carbon atom which gives rise to enantiomers. The compounds are normally prepared as racemates and can conveniently be used as

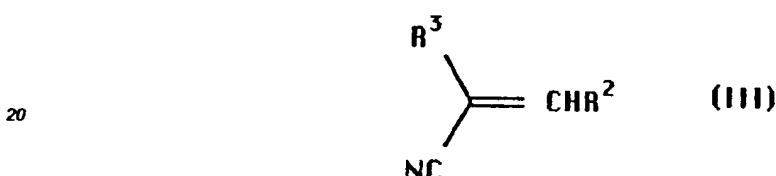
such but individual enantiomers can be isolated by conventional techniques if so desired. Such racemates and individual enantiomers form part of the present invention.

The invention also comprises a process for producing a compound of formula (I) above, which comprises (1) reacting a compound of the formula

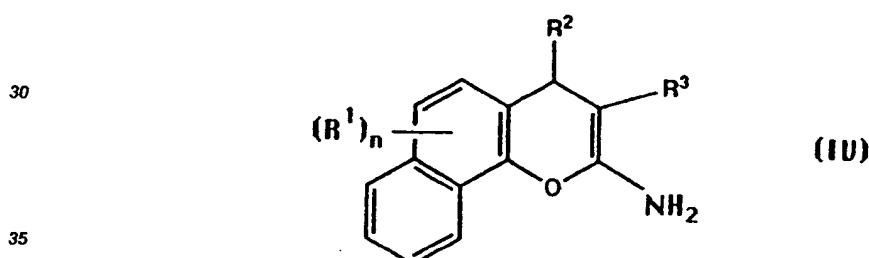
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15 with a compound of the formula

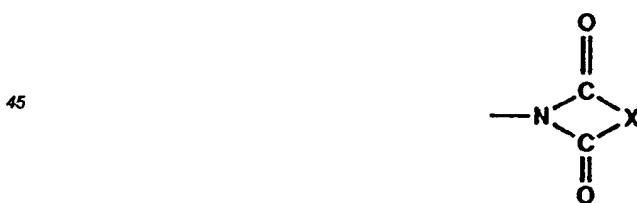


25 to give a compound of formula (I) in which R⁴ is -NH₂, or
(2) converting a compound of the formula



to a compound of formula (I) in which R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹², -N(COR¹²)₂, -N=CHOCH₂R¹², -NHSO₂R¹⁴ or

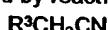
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With regard to process (1), the reaction is preferably carried out at a temperature of from 0° C. to 100° C. and in the presence of an organic solvent, such as for example ethanol. Compounds of formula (II) are known or can be easily synthesised by known methods.

The reactants of formula (III) can be prepared by reacting the appropriate nitrile of the formula



with an aldehyde of the formula



preferably at a temperature of from 20° C. to 100° C. in the presence of an organic base as catalyst such as

piperidine and in the presence of an organic solvent, such as for example ethanol. The nitrile and aldehyde reactants are known compounds or can be made by methods known in the art.

With regard to process (2), the free enamine can be prepared by reaction (1) and subsequently converted to compounds in which R⁴ takes other values. For example, the free amino group can be alkylated with reagents of formula R¹²X or R¹³X where X is halogen, or (R¹²)₂SO₄ or (R¹³)₂SO₄ to give the mono- or di-alkylated product. Similarly the amino group can be acylated with an acyl halide or an acid anhydride such as R¹²COX or (R¹²CO)₂O to give compounds in which R⁴ is -NHCOR¹² or -N(COR¹²)₂. Compounds in which R⁴ is -N=CHOCH₂R¹² are prepared by reaction with the appropriate trialkyl orthoformate, and those in which R⁴ is -NHSO₂R¹⁴ by reaction with a sulphonyl halide of formula R¹⁴SO₂X.

As mentioned above, the compounds have pharmaceutical activity. They have an antiproliferative effect on cell division, and are thus indicated for use in the treatment of diseases where excess cell proliferation or enzyme release is an important aspect of the pathology.

For example, the compounds of the invention inhibit the natural proliferation of 3T3 fibroblasts at IC₅₀ concentrations of below 10 µ molar.

Furthermore, the compounds have been shown to modify the immune response by inhibiting concanavalin A-induced T-cell proliferation in the test described by Lacombe P. et al, FEBS, 3048, 191, 227-230. In general the compounds of the invention have an IC₅₀ value in this test of below 10 µM.

The compounds also inhibit cell proliferation in an NS-1 murine B-lymphoma line, and phorbol ester-stimulated plasminogen activator synthesis in bovine retinal capillary endothelial cells.

Inhibition of macrophage-conditioned medium induced neutral protease release in chondrocytes has also been observed in the test described by K. Deshmukh-Phadke, M. Lawrence and S. Nanda, Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 1978, 85, 490-496.

Such properties show that the compounds have potential in the treatment of a wide range of diseases, such as for example rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, cirrhosis, fibrosis and cancer, and for the treatment of auto-immune diseases, such as for example systemic lupus, and in the prevention of graft rejection. They are also indicated for the treatment of osteoarthritis and diabetic complications.

Furthermore, compounds of the invention have been shown to inhibit vascular smooth cell proliferation. This has been demonstrated by using cultured smooth cells derived from rabbit aortae, proliferation being determined by the measurement of DNA synthesis. Cells are obtained by explant method as described in Ross, J. of Cell Bio. 50:172 (1971). Cells are plated in 96 well microtiter plates for five days. The cultures become confluent and growth is arrested. The cells are then transferred to Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) containing 0.5 2% platelet poor plasma, 2mM L-glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin 100 µg ml streptomycin, 1 µC/ml ³H-thymidine, 20 ng/ml platelet-derived growth factor and varying concentrations of the compounds. Stock solution of compounds is prepared in dimethyl sulphoxide and then diluted to appropriate concentration (0.01-10 µg/ml) in the above assay medium. Cells are then incubated at 37° C. for 24 hours under 5% CO₂/95% air. At the end of 24 hours, the cells are fixed in methanol. ³H thymidine incorporation in DNA was then determined by scintillation counting as described in Bonin et al., Exp. Cell Res. 181: 475-482 (1989).

Inhibition of smooth muscle cell proliferation by the compounds of the invention is further demonstrated by determining their effects on exponentially growing cells. Smooth muscle cells from rabbit aortae are seeded in 12 well tissue culture plates in DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum, 2mM L-glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. After 24 hours, the cells are attached, the medium is replaced with DMEM containing 2% platelet poor plasma, 2mM L-glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, 40 ng/ml platelet-derived growth factor and indicated concentrations of the compounds. Cells are allowed to grow for four days. Cells are treated with trypsin and number of cells in each cultures is determined by counting using a ZM-Coulter counter.

Activity in the above tests indicates that the compounds of the invention are of potential in the treatment of restenosis, which is characterised by the migration and proliferation of smooth muscle cells in response to injury.

The invention also includes a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier in association with a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

The compounds may be administered by various routes, for example, by the oral or rectal route, topically or parenterally, for example by injection, being usually employed in the form of a pharmaceutical composition. Such compositions form part of the present invention and are prepared in a manner well known in the pharmaceutical art and normally comprise at least one active compound in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier. In making the compositions of the present invention, the active ingredient will usually be mixed with a carrier, or diluted by a carrier, and/or enclosed with a carrier which may, for example, be in the form of a capsule, sachet, paper or other container. Where the carrier serves as a diluent, it may be solid, semi-solid, or liquid material which acts as a vehicle, excipient or medium for the active ingredient. Thus,

the composition may be in the form of tablets, lozenges, sachets, cachets, elixirs, suspensions, as a solid or in a liquid medium, ointments containing, for example, up to 10% by weight of the active compound, soft and hard gelatin capsules, suppositories, injection solutions and sterile packaged powders.

Some examples of suitable carriers are lactose, dextrose, sucrose, sorbitol, mannitol, starches, gum acacia, calcium phosphate, alginates, tragacanth, gelatin, syrup, methyl cellulose, methyl- and propyl- hydroxybenzoate, talc magnesium stearate and mineral oil. The compositions of the injection may, as is well known in the art, be formulated so as to provide quick, sustained or delayed release of the active ingredient after administration to the patient.

Where the compositions are formulated in unit dosage form, it is preferred that each unit dosage form contains from 5 mg to 500 mg, for example, from 25 mg to 200 mg. The term 'unit dosage form' refers to physically discrete units suitable as unit dosages for human subjects and animals, each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active material calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect, in association with the required pharmaceutical carrier.

The active compounds are effective over a wide dosage range and, for example, dosages per day will normally fall within the range of from 0.5 to 300 mg/kg, more usually in the range of from 5 to 100 mg/kg. However, it will be understood that the amount administered will be determined by the physician in the light of the relevant circumstances including the condition to be treated, the choice of compound to be administered and the chosen route of administration, and therefore the above dosage ranges are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way.

The invention is illustrated by the following Examples.

EXAMPLE 1

3-(Trifluoromethyl)-benzaldehyde (9.2 g) and ethyl cyanoacetate (5.3 ml) were dissolved in ethanol (20 ml) and this solution was heated to reflux temperature. Heating was discontinued, piperidine (two drops) was added, and once the vigour of the reaction began to subside heating was recommenced and maintained at reflux temperature for one hour. The solution was chilled, using an ice-water bath, water (30 ml) was added and white crystals of ethyl 2-cyano-3-[3-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-propenoate were filtered off, washed with water and dried, m.p. 79° C.

The following compounds were prepared in a similar manner:

Ethyl 2-cyano-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-propenoate, m.p. 114° C.

Ethyl 2-cyano-3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-propenoate, m.p. 74° C.

2-Nitrobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 141° C.

3-Nitrobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 108° C.

4-Nitrobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 162° C.

3-Chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 118° C.

3-Fluorobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 91° C.

3-Bromobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 105° C.

2-(Trifluoromethyl)-benzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 46° C.

3-(Trifluoromethyl)-benzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 81° C.

4-(Trifluoromethyl)-benzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 109° C.

4-(2,2-Dimethylethyl)-benzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 92° C.

3-Pyridinecarboxalidemalononitrile, m.p. 89° C.

2-Thiophenecarboxalidemalononitrile, m.p. 98° C.

3-Methoxybenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 102° C.

3-Trifluoromethoxybenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 73° C.

3-Chloro-4-fluorobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 111° C.

3-Bromo-4-fluorobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 122.5° C.

3-Carbomethoxybenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 125° C.

3-Hydroxybenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 152° C.

2-Cyano-(3-nitrophenyl)propenamide, m.p. 140° C.

3,4-Dichlorobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 154° C.

3,4-Dimethoxybenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 137° C.

3,4-(Methylenedioxy)benzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 201-202° C.

4-Chloro-3-nitrobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 142° C.

2-Nitro-4-thiophenecarboxalidemalononitrile, m.p. 103-104° C.

α-Methanesulphonyl-3-nitrocinnamonnitrile, m.p. 157° C.

4-Fluoro-3-nitrobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 117° C.

4-(1-Piperidino)-3-nitrobenzylidenemalononitrile, m.p. 154° C.

EXAMPLE 2

- 5 1-Naphthol (1.44 g) was stirred in ethanol (20 ml) at ambient temperature. To this suspension was added 3-(trifluoromethyl)-benzylidenemalononitrile (2.23 g) and piperidine (1 ml). All solids dissolved and heat was evolved. Crystals of 2-amino-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile came out of solution after a few minutes and were collected by filtration after one hour's further stirring, were washed with ethanol and dried. Recrystallisation from ethanol gave white crystals, m.p. 215.5 - 216.5° C.
- 10 The following compounds were prepared in a similar manner:
- Ethyl 2-amino-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carboxylate, m.p. 156.5 - 157° C.
 Ethyl 2-amino-4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carboxylate, m.p. 124-126° C.
 Ethyl 2-amino-4-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carboxylate, m.p. 144-146° C.
 2-Amino-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 142 - 143.5° C.
- 15 2-Amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 214.5 - 216° C.
 2-Amino-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 229-231° C.
 2-Amino-4-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 239-240° C.
 2-Amino-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 215.5 - 216.5° C.
 2-Amino-4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 234 - 239.5° C.
- 20 2-Amino-6-chloro-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 179-181° C.
 2-Amino-6-methoxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 216-218° C.
- 25 2-Amino-4-(3-fluorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 240-242° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3-bromophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 234 - 235.5° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 226-228° C.
 2-Amino-4-[4-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 240-243° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3-pyridinyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 205-207° C.
 Ethyl 2-amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carboxylate, m.p. 152.5 - 153.5° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carboxamide, m.p. 205 - 206.5° C.
- 30 2-Amino-7-methoxy-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 242-246° C.
 2-Amino-8-methoxy-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 234-236° C.
 2-Amino-9-methoxy-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 244-245° C.
 2-Amino-3-cyano-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-6-carboxylic acid, m.p. 244-248° C.
 2-Amino-3-cyano-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-6-carboxylic acid, m.p. 280° C. (decomposition).
- 35 2-Amino-3-cyano-4-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-6-carboxylic acid, m.p. 252-256° C.
 2-Amino-3-cyano-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-6-carboxylic acid, m.p. 253-254.5° C.
 2-Amino-3-cyano-4-(3-carboxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-6-carboxylic acid, m.p. >300° C. (decomposition).
- 40 2-Amino-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 139-142.5° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3-carboxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 235-236° C.
 2-Amino-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 194.5 - 196.5° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 211 - 211.5° C.
- 45 2-Amino-4-(3-bromo-4-fluorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 209.5 - 210.5° C.
 2-Amino-7-hydroxy-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 237-239° C.
 2-Amino-4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 249-251° C.
 [2-Amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-yl]methyl sulphone, m.p. 173° C.
- 50 2-Amino-4-(2-nitro-4-thienyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 187-188° C.
 2-Amino-4-(4-fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 218-220° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 249-252° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 207-209.5° C.
 2-Amino-4-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 247-249° C.

EXAMPLE 3

3-Nitrobenzaldehyde (84.5 g) and malononitrile (37 g) in ethanol (560 ml) were heated to reflux temperature, with stirring. The heating was halted, piperidine (10 drops) was added and the solution was further heated

for 15 minutes. This solution was cooled to 5° C., using an ice-water bath, and to the resultant stirred suspension of intermediate 1-naphthol (80.7 g) was added, followed by piperidine (15 ml). This suspension was heated, under reflux, for 10 minutes and stirred to ambient temperature. The cream crystals of 2-amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile were filtered off, washed with ethanol until all colour had been removed, and dried, m.p. 214.5 - 216° C.

EXAMPLE 4

2-Amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile(10.3g) was dissolved in dry dimethylformamide (60 ml) and cooled with stirring, to 0° C in an ice-water bath. Acetyl chloride (12.4 ml) was added, followed by pyridine (14.3 ml). After stirring for three days at ambient temperature the solids that initially had precipitated had redissolved to give a brown viscous solution. This solution was partitioned between brine and chloroform, the chloroform extract was washed with more brine, dried with magnesium sulphate, filtered and evaporated to dryness.

The residue was dissolved in a minimum of chloroform, passed through a 'flash' silica column and chloroform and the fractions containing product were bulked, evaporated and triturated with ether and a little methanol. The yellow 2-diacetylamino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile was filtered off and washed with ether, m.p. 153-154° C.

The following compound was prepared in a similar manner:

2-Diacetylamino-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 138.5 - 139° C.

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EXAMPLE 5

2-Diacetylamino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile (3.62 g) was dissolved in chloroform (200 ml) and mechanically stirred in the presence of Grade III alumina (36 g) for 24 hours at ambient temperature. The suspension was filtered, the alumina pad was washed through with 5% methanol in chloroform, the combined filtrates were evaporated and the residue was triturated with a little chloroform. The white solid was dissolved in dioxan (50 ml) and left to stand for 24 hours. An impurity precipitated out and this was filtered off. Water was added (200 ml) to the filtrate and the solid produced was filtered off, washed with water and dried. This solid was passed through a chloroform - 'flash' silica column. The fractions containing product were bulked, evaporated to dryness and triturated with methanol to give yellow crystals of 2-acetamido-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 234.5 - 236° C.

EXAMPLE 6

35 2-Amino-4-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile (3.12 g) was heated, under reflux, in triethyl orthoformate (40 ml) for 24 hours. A fraction coming over at 80 to 140° C. was distilled off and more triethyl orthoformate (40 ml) was added, and the refluxing was continued for a further 24 hours. The solution was evaporated to dryness. The gummy residue was dissolved in chloroform and passed through a column of 'flash' silica using 30% hexane in chloroform as eluant. The fractions containing product were bulked, evaporated and triturated with ethyl acetate to give white crystals of 4-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-2-ethoxymethyleneamino-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 146-148° C.

Similarly produced were:

2-Ethoxymethyleneamino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 181.5 - 183° C.

40 4-(4-Chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-2-ethoxymethyleneamino-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 184.5 - 186°C.

EXAMPLE 7

50 2-Amino-4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile (3.8 g) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (30 ml), at room temperature. To this was added pyridine (2.02 ml) followed by succinyl chloride (1.34 ml) and the solution was stirred for 24 hours. More pyridine (2.02 ml) and succinyl chloride (1.34 ml) was added. The solution was heated under reflux for 6 hours, cooled, poured into water and partitioned into chloroform. The chloroform extract was washed with brine, dried with magnesium sulphate, passed through a column of silica gel using 30% hexane in chloroform as eluant, evaporated to dryness and triturated with ethyl acetate to give 1.07 g of 4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-2-(N-succinimido)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 215.5 - 217° C.

EXAMPLE 8

5 4-(4-Chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-2-ethoxymethyleneamino-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile (4.3 g) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (70 ml), and to this solution, with stirring, was added sodium borohydride (2.7 g), in portions. After one hour the suspension was cooled in ice-water and 1 molar hydrochloric acid (20 ml) was added dropwise, followed by water (200 ml). A yellow product was filtered off, washed with water and dried. This material was dissolved in hot chloroform and passed down a chloroform - 'flash silica' column. Fractions containing product were bulked, evaporated to dryness, and triturated with ether to give 4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-2-methylamino-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 278.5 - 279° C.

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EXAMPLE 9

15 2-Amino-4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile (3.8 g) was dissolved in 2-butanone (100 ml). To this stirred solution was added dimethyl sulphate (2.4 ml) and potassium carbonate (3.5 g). This suspension was heated under reflux for two hours. More dimethyl sulphate (2.4 ml) and potassium carbonate (3.5 g) were added. The solution was heated for an additional 22 hours, cooled, filtered, evaporated to dryness, the residue was dissolved in warm chloroform and passed through a 'flash' chromatography column using 20% hexane-chloroform (1 litre) then further eluted with 10% hexane-chloroform (1 litre). The elution was then completed using chloroform. The fractions containing product were bulked, evaporated to dryness and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. Recrystallisation from toluene gave yellow crystals of 4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-2-dimethylamino-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile, m.p. 217.5 - 218.5° C.

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EXAMPLE 10

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4-(4-Chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-2-(N-succinimido)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile (0.41 g) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml). To this solution 2M sodium hydroxide was added (0.94 ml) and the solution was stirred for two days, at ambient temperature. The solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was dissolved in water (50 ml) and filtered. To the filtrate acetic acid (1.14 ml) was added and the precipitated buff N-[4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-3-cyano-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-2-yl]-succinamic acid was filtered off, washed with water and dried, m.p. >300° C.

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EXAMPLE 11Soft gelatin capsule

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Each soft gelatin capsule contains:

Active ingredient	150 mg
Arachis oil	150 mg

After mixing together, the blend is filled into soft gelatine capsules using the appropriate equipment.

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EXAMPLE 12Hard gelatine capsule

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Each capsule contains:

Active ingredient	50 mg
PEG 4000	250 mg

The PEG 4000 is melted and mixed with the active ingredient. Whilst still molten the mixture is filled into capsule shells and allowed to cool.

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EXAMPLE 13

Tablets each containing 10 mg of active ingredient are made up as follows:

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	Active ingredient	
	Starch	10 mg
5	Microcrystalline cellulose	160 mg
	Polyvinylpyrrolidone (as 10% solution in water)	100 mg
	Sodium carboxymethyl starch	13 mg
	Magnesium stearate	14 mg
10		3 mg
	Total	300 mg

15 The active ingredient, starch and cellulose are mixed thoroughly. The solution of polyvinylpyrrolidone is mixed with the resultant powders and passed through a sieve. The granules so produced are dried and re-passed through a sieve. The sodium carboxymethyl starch and magnesium stearate are then added to the granules which, after mixing, are compressed on a tablet machine to yield tablets each weighing 300 mg.

20 EXAMPLE 14

Capsules each containing 20 mg of medicament are made as follows:

	Active ingredient	20 mg
25	Dried starch	178 mg
	Magnesium stearate	2 mg
30	Total	200 mg

The active ingredient, starch and magnesium stearate are passed through a sieve and filled into hard gelatin capsules in 200 mg quantities.

35 EXAMPLE 15

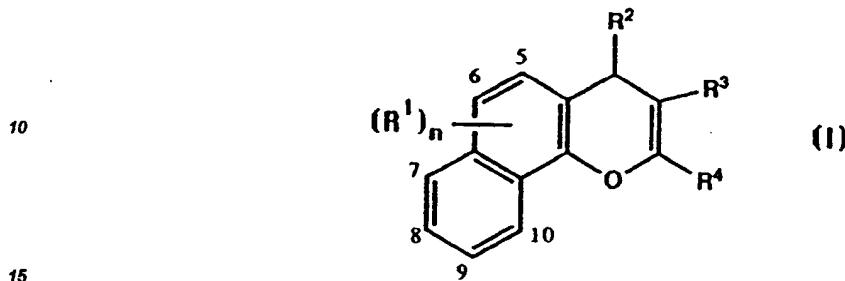
The concanavalin A response of rat spleen cells was used as a primary *in vitro* assay to determine the activity of the compounds of the invention. Many methods for the determination of concavalin A response are described in the literature. The method employed was similar to that described by Lacombe P. et al, FEBS 3048 191, 227-230. We used 2×10^6 cells per culture well, and concanavalin A was employed at 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. 2-Mercaptoethanol was a requirement (2×10^{-5}) and 0.25 μCi of tritiated thymidine was added 6 hours before cell harvesting.

The following compounds have an IC_{50} in the range of from 0.006 to 2.0 μM

- 45 Ethyl 2-amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carboxylate.
- 2-Amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-9-methoxy-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Diacetylamino-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 50 2-Amino-4-(3-fluorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-4-(3-pyridinyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-4-(3-carbomethoxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-4-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 2-Amino-4-(4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 55 2-Amino-4-(3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.

Claims**1. A compound of the formula**

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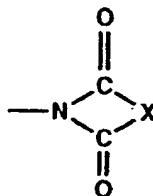
in which n is 0, 1 or 2 and R¹ is attached at any of the positions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, and each R¹ is halo, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, -COOR⁵ where R⁵ is an ester group, -CONR⁶R⁷ or -NR⁶R⁷ where R⁶ and R⁷ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R² is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl selected from thiienyl, pyridyl, benzothienyl, quinolinyl, benzofuranyl or benzimidazolyl, said phenyl, naphthyl and heteroaryl groups being optionally substituted, or R² is furanyl optionally substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R³ is nitrile, carboxy, -COOR⁸ where R⁸ is an ester group, -CONR⁹R¹⁰ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, or R¹¹SO₂⁻ where R¹¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl; and

R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹², -N(COR¹²)₂ or -N=CHOCH₂R¹² where R¹² and R¹³ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl optionally substituted with carboxy,

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where X is C₂₋₄ alkylene, or -NHSO₂R¹⁴ where R¹⁴ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl;

provided that when n is 0, R³ is nitrile and R⁴ is -NH₂, R² is not phenyl or phenyl substituted in the para-position with a single chloro, hydroxy or methoxy substituent; or a salt thereof.

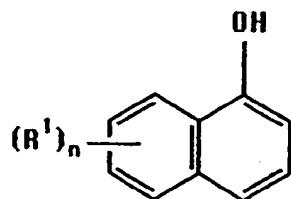
2. A compound according to claim 1 in which n is 0, 1 or 2 and R¹ is attached at any of the positions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, and each R¹ is halo, trifluoromethyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy, R² is phenyl, naphthyl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or two substituents each selected from nitro, trifluoromethyl, halo, C₁₋₄ alkyl and C₁₋₄ alkoxy or R² is furanyl optionally substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl, R³ is nitro, carboxy, -COOR⁸ where R⁸ is an ester group, or -CONR⁹R¹⁰ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, and R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹² or -N(COR¹²)₂ where R¹² and R¹³ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, or -NHSO₂R¹⁴ where R¹⁴ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three substituents each selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, nitro and halo; provided that when n is 0, R³ is nitrile and R⁴ is -NH₂, R² is not phenyl or phenyl substituted in the para-position with a single chloro, hydroxy or methoxy substituent.
3. A compound according to either of claims 1 and 2 in which n is 0 or 1 and R¹ is C₁₋₄ alkoxy or halo.
4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3, in which R² is phenyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from halo, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, -COOR¹⁵ where R¹⁵ is an ester group, -CONR¹⁶R¹⁷

or -NR¹⁶R¹⁷ where R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are each hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl.

- 5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4, in which R³ is nitrile.
- 5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5 in which R⁴ is -NH₂.
- 7. 2-Amino-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4H-naphtho[1,2-b]pyran-3-carbonitrile.
- 8. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.
- 10. A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.
- 10. A process for producing a compound according to claim 1, which comprises
 - (1) reacting a compound of the formula

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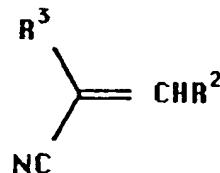
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with a compound of the formula

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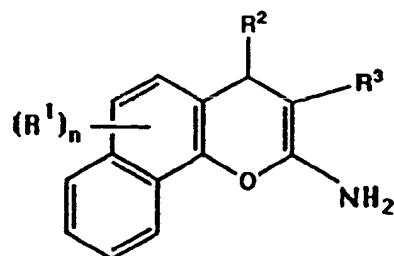


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to give a compound according to claim 1 in which R⁴ is -NH₂, or
 (2) converting a compound of the formula

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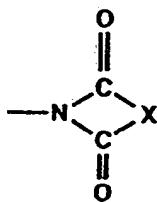


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to a compound according to claim 1 in which R⁴ is -NR¹²R¹³, -NHCOR¹², -N(COR¹²)₂, -N=CHOCH₂R¹²,
 -NHSO₂R¹⁴ or

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 30 9169

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CLS)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
D,A	INDIAN JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY, SECTION B, vol. 29B, no. 9, September 1990, New Delhi, IN, pages 885 - 886 A.G.A. ELAGAMEY ET AL. 'Nitriles in heterocyclic synthesis: Synthesis of condensed pyrans' * compounds 5a, 5b *	1-5	C07D311/92 C07D405/04 A61K31/35
D,A	COLLECTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK CHEMICAL COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 53, no. 7, July 1988, Prague, CS, pages 1534 - 1538 A.G.A. ELAGAMEY ET AL. 'Nitriles in heterocyclic synthesis: Novel syntheses of benzo[b]pyrans, naphtho[1,2-b]pyrans, naphtho[2,1-b]pyrans, pyrano[3,2-h]quinolines and pyrano[3,2-c]quinolines' * compounds IIIa, IIIb *	1-5	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CLS)			
C07D			

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 19 NOVEMBER 1992	Evaluator RUSSELL F. ENGLISH	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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